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Docket No. NEC03P167-Mlc (WAK.120)

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REMARKS

Entry of this response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because no new claims or issues are raised and the only claim amendments being existing dependent claim matter into the independent claims.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

It is noted that the claims amendments are made only for pointing out the claimed invention more particularly, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims, or for statutory requirements for patentability. Further Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 2-8 are understood as rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant believes the above claim amendments address the Examiner's concerns and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 4-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submits, however, that all pending claims are allowable.

Claims 1, 7-9, 11-15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Lor et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0068668) (hereinafter Lor). Claims 2-3, 10, 16, and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lor in view of Whelan et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0203593) (hereinafter Whelan).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in the following discussion.

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I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary aspect of the claimed invention, as recited in independent claim 1, is directed to a method of limiting communication access between wireless LAN terminals of a wireless LAN, including the steps of allocating different subnetwork addresses to respective wireless LAN terminals, setting default gateways of the respective wireless LAN terminals as a single access limiter, and returning a communication packet between the wireless LAN terminals from said access limiter which is set as said default gateways, for providing an access limiting function to limit communication access between the wireless LAN terminals.

The conventional wireless LAN, however, does not limit communication between wireless LAN terminals of a wireless LAN. As a result, communication between wireless terminals can consume all of the LAN's resources. For example, an FTP transfer between terminals in the wireless network can lead to 100 percent of the wireless LAN transferring the files between the terminals, leading to a loss of function during that transfer.

The claimed invention provides, however, "an access limiting function to limit communication access between the wireless LAN terminals." That is, within a wireless LAN, access between terminals is controlled. This is feature is important for preventing two wireless terminals from consuming all the resources of a wireless LAN (See the Application, page 4, lines 17-26).

II. THE ALLEGED PRIOR ART REFERENCE

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that discloses the claimed invention described by claims 1, 7-9, 11-15, and 17. However, Lor does not disclose or

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suggest every element as recited in the claimed invention.

In general if a network is connected directly in L2, the network is assigned "directly connected group in L3," and not through a router. That is, "directly connected group in L3" means a network which that is one subnet on the IP network. Because the claimed invention uses WLAN, the terminal which is connected to one access point corresponds to "a network which is connected directly in L2." Therefore the network is directly connected in L3 and not through a router.

However, in the claimed invention, a direct communication in L2 is left, since it is inevitable, physically. The different network which is not directly connected is assigned. Therefore, a "uniform management," of all packets is possible and control of all facets of communication, i.e., access control, QoS, etc.

Assigning a different subnet is one embodiment of providing a "uniform management apparatus," which means an apparatus through which all traffic necessarily passes, by separating communication between each terminal and gathering all packets to one piece of equipment.

Applicant first submits that Lor does not disclose or suggest "a method of limiting communication between wireless LAN terminals of a wireless LAN," as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 9 and 17. That is, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, Lor is directed to monitoring the status of a single wireless terminal in a wireless network. Referring to FIGS. 3 and 5 of Lor, various "handoff" scenarios are illustrated in which wireless device 322, for example, passes over to the position of wireless device 323. Instead of disclosing multiple wireless terminals of a wireless LAN, Lor discloses single wireless terminals moving from wireless LAN to wireless LAN.

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Referring to FIG. 1 of Lor, LAN 101 includes several access points 111, 112, 113, 114, and 115. Each of these points may be considered a wireless network because they are disclosed as the point at which wireless devices 120-129 access the overall network or LAN 101. Where an access point does include multiple wireless devices, such as access point 115 and wireless devices 128 and 129, Lor does not disclose or suggest "a method of limiting communication between wireless LAN terminals of a wireless LAN," as recited in claim 1. Instead, Lor discloses controlling the access for each of the wireless devices. Thus, paragraphs [0036-46] disclose security arrangements for the access points, such as preventing log-in fraud and not "limiting communication," as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, paragraphs [0047-63] disclose security policies on network use. Lor merely provides that access points may include the capability to control access. *See* Lor, Paragraph [0048]. One method involves simply inspecting and discarding packets that are inefficient. *See* Lor, Paragraph [0055]. However, similar to the above discussion of paragraphs [0036-0046], no part of Lor discloses or suggests, "a method of limiting communication between wireless LAN terminals of a wireless LAN," as recited in claim 1.

Next, Applicant submits that Lor does not disclose or suggest "allocating different subnetwork addresses to respective wireless LAN terminals," as recited in claim 1. Instead, Lor provides no disclosure in this regard. Conventional wireless LANs, however, assign the same subnetwork addresses to their wireless LAN terminals. *See e.g.* the Application, page 2, lines 6-20 and FIG. 1. Indeed, Lor does not disclose different subnetwork addresses. Instead, Lor refers to IP addresses at paragraph [0074]. Accordingly, Lor does not disclose or suggest "allocating different subnetwork addresses to respective wireless LAN terminals," as

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recited in independent claim 1.

Furthermore, Lor does not disclose or suggest “setting default gateways of the respective wireless LAN terminals as a single access limiter,” as recited in claim 1. Instead, conventional wireless networks do not send packets designed for identical subnets through a default gateway. *See e.g.*, the Application, page 3, lines 4 and 5. Since different subnets are allocated to respective wireless LAN terminals, wireless LAN terminals are unable to communicate directly with each other. Wireless LAN terminal thus sends a packet destined for wireless LAN terminal to the default gateway as an access limiter. *See e.g.*, the Application, page 14, lines 17-21. Thus, where the Examiner alleges that Lor discloses these claimed elements, the Wireless LAN Switches may limit access via access control, but the Wireless LAN Switches do not disclose or suggest “setting default gateways of the respective wireless LAN terminals as a single access limiter,” as recited in claim 1.

In addition, the Examiner alleges that paragraph [0055] discloses “returning a communication packet between the wireless LAN terminals from said access limiter which is set as said default gateways, for providing an access limiting function to limit communication access between the wireless LAN terminals,” as recited in claim 1. While Lor does disclose limiting access by simply pruning disfavored downloads, Lor does not disclose or suggest, discloses “returning a communication packet between the wireless LAN terminals,” because Lor is discussing communication from a single wireless device to a network, and not communication between wireless devices at a single terminal. Furthermore, Lor does not disclose or suggest that the “access limiter which is set as said default gateways, for providing an access limiting function to limit communication access between the wireless LAN terminals,” as recited in claim 1.

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In sum, Lor does not disclose or suggest every element as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 9 and 17. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 9, and 17 are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claims 2-8, 10-16, 18, and 19, which depend from independent claims 1, 9, and 17, respectively, each of these claims contain all the limitations contained within claims 1, 9, and 17 and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

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III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

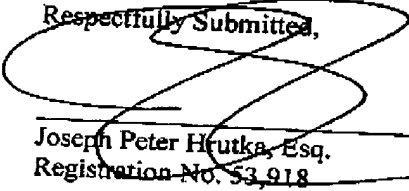
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-19, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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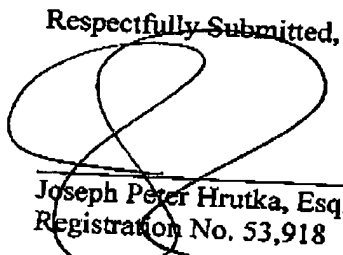
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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 2617, at (571) 273-8300, on July 28, 2008.

Date: 7/28/8

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